

IN RECOGNITION OF HONDA
NORTH AMERICA'S OPERATIONS
BACK UP BY AUGUST 2011

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the people of Honda by including an editorial below from The Daily Home on May 28th about their resilience after the tragedies in Japan.

It is very good news that Honda expects all its North American operations to be back to full speed by August and that includes its Lincoln plant where three of its most popular vehicles are assembled.

The March earthquake and tsunami in Japan severely hampered Honda's supply chain and ended up costing the giant automaker months of production as it faced difficult and at times insurmountable obstacles to getting supplies from Japan to North America.

Without those supplies, cars could not be built.

As time passed, the supply chain opened up a bit, and then a little more.

But not too long ago Honda officials (along with other Japanese automakers) were expecting a late fall date for full production to resume.

Last week, however, the company announced it wouldn't take that long.

"Honda will increase production volume at its North America automobile plants to a rate of 100 percent original production plan in August," a company press release announced.

Honda's employees in Lincoln met the news with enthusiasm.

"Today we announced to our associates in plant-wide meetings that we are planning to accelerate recovery of our production. . . ." said Mark Morrison, a company spokesman. "When we announced that the Odyssey and Pilot would reach 100 percent of their original production plan in August, our associates greeted the news with great applause," he said.

That kind of reaction is what you would expect from Honda employees. The 4,000 people who work in the local plant are intensely loyal and, based on the plant's expansion since opening, also are very productive.

That loyalty and productivity have been rewarded with a unique approach to the forced slowdown in production. Rather than lay off workers, Honda allowed them to work on maintenance chores, or to take earned vacation time to keep their paychecks coming. And after the April 27 tornadoes ripped through our area, Honda allowed its employees to take two days per week to volunteer at cleanup activities while getting paid as though they were at work.

Those policies say a lot about Honda and the kind of company it is. And they say a lot about Honda's employees and the kind of people they are.

Honda made it through this parts crisis without laying off a single employee in their North American plants, the company said. Now that they are ready to ramp up production again, those employees are available and their morale should be high, since no one had to do with a reduced paycheck during the difficult times.

The Japanese automaker obviously enjoys great economic strength to be able to weather such a crisis without cutting employee paychecks. We commend Honda for its approach, we continue to wish the company a long and prosperous future in Lincoln and the rest of its North America plants.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2011

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, on June 3, 2011, I was on a leave of absence from the House of Representatives to attend the funeral of former Congressman Peter Frelinghuysen. As a result, I did not have the opportunity to vote on rollcall votes 410, 411, and 412. On rollcall vote 410, providing consideration of H. Res. 292 and H. Con. Res. 51, I would have voted in the affirmative. On rollcall vote 411, declaring that the President shall not deploy, establish, or maintain the presence of units and members of the United States Armed Forces on the ground in Libya, I would have voted in the affirmative. On rollcall vote 412, directing the President, pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution, to remove the United States Armed Forces from Libya, I would have voted in the affirmative.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2011

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, on May 10, 2011, I was unable to be on the House floor to vote for the three amendments to H.R. 1229. Had I been there, I would have voted as follows: rollcall 299: Polis amendment: "nay"; rollcall 300: Garamendi amendment: "nay"; rollcall 301: Markey amendment: "nay."

Also, I regretfully inform you I was detained during a vote on May 11, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: rollcall 312: Connolly amendment: "nay."

Finally, in addition, I was detained during a vote on May 25, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: rollcall 338: Foxx amendment: "yea."

HONORING HARRIET BEECHER STOWE

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2011

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the bicentennial of the birth of Harriet Beecher Stowe. Stowe was born on June 14, 1811, and was an integral figure in the abolition movement. She is best known for her anti-slavery novel Uncle Tom's Cabin—a book that painted a human picture of slavery in the United States.

Her writing stirred an international groundswell of support for abolition. Uncle Tom's Cabin, first serialized in the weekly National Era, became the best-selling book of the 19th century, with 10,000 copies sold in the first week of publication. In Great Britain, 1.5 million copies were sold in its first year. Uncle Tom's Cabin has since been translated into 60 languages and continues to be read around the world.

Stowe leveraged the media of her day, demanding that America fulfill its promise of freedom and recognize the human face of bondage. Virulent criticism from slavery proponents prompted Stowe to publish A Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin, detailing her sources. Over the next decade, public attitudes toward slavery changed.

Stowe's informal, conversational writing style inspired people in a way that political speeches and newspaper accounts could not. Many believe that Uncle Tom's Cabin helped 19th century Americans determine what kind of country they wanted.

Harriet Beecher Stowe's legacy is proof that we all have the ability to make profound position changes to our world, no matter the obstacles. Her creativity and courage positively influenced the lives of many. I ask my colleagues to join with me in officially recognizing the bicentennial of the birth of an incredible American, Harriet Beecher Stowe.

PLEDGE FOR RESPECT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2011

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) has called on Congress to oppose irresponsible and inflammatory rhetoric toward Latinos, and instead to focus on finding solutions to the nation's most pressing concerns that work for all Americans. Today, I join with them in opposing irresponsible rhetoric and supporting the importance of civil discourse in the political process, especially on issues related to race and ethnicity.

The current national immigration narrative misrepresents the Latino community. Some use the community as a scapegoat, and some blatantly encourage xenophobia for political gain. Like all Americans, Latinos care about and are deeply affected by the complex issues facing our nation: serious economic challenges, a flawed immigration system in need of reform, an unnecessarily complex tax code that often hurts the middle class, and an aging infrastructure that endangers the literal ties between us. Those who slander, dehumanize or disrespect any community in particular are refusing to solve problems in a thoughtful, constructive way.

If we as a country join hands, move forward and choose to be respectful of Latino—and all racial and ethnic communities—we can solve our problems together. Every day, Latinos make substantial contributions to the economic, civic, and cultural life of Oregon and this country. I encourage my colleagues to seek out and consider the Latino perspective on today's issues, and to find areas of common ground based on our shared values and interests. I encourage them to meet with NCLR and other Latino businesses, non-profits and community groups in their area. Hearing the Latino perspective benefits all Americans. I consider it an honor to represent the Latino families, students, workers and constituents of the 3rd congressional district in Oregon.